

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated June 9, 2004, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As an initial matter, Applicants' representatives would like to thank the Examiner for an early allowance of claims 1-8 and an early indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11 and 12.

This confirms Applicants' election of claims 1 through 12. By the above amendments, claims 13 through 19 directed to the non-elected invention have been canceled without disclaimer thereof and prejudice thereto, and Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on those claims.

Moreover, claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original claims 9 and 10. Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaiming the subject matter thereof to simplify and expedite the prosecution of this application, although this should not be taken as an indication that Applicants agree with the Examiner's position that claims 9 and 10 are unpatentable over Hughes in view of Thomas. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to prosecute the subject matter of canceled claims 9 and 10.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated June 9, 2004, has been addressed and it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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